

THE NAVAJO NATION

JONATHAN NEZ | PRESIDENT MYRON LIZER | VICE PRESIDENT



CEM-20-03-11

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSION ON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

DECLARING A PUBLIC HEALTH STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR THE NAVAJO NATION DUE TO THE CONFIRMATION OF THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE ("COVID-19") IN REGIONAL AREAS SURROUNDING THE NAVAJO NATION.

WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C., § 881 the Navajo Nation Council established the Commission on Emergency Management, authorizing it to assess, verify, recommend and declare states of emergency with the concurrence of the President of the Navajo Nation; and
2. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C., § 883 (A) and (C) the Commission is empowered to coordinate immediate emergency and disaster relief services with Navajo Nation and non-tribal entities in conjunction with the Department of Emergency Management to recommend and deploy appropriate resources regarding natural and man-made emergencies; and
3. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C., § 884 (B), (2) the Commission on Emergency Management may seek assistance from federal, state, other tribal governments, and local and private agencies to address emergency and disaster related situations; and
4. The nature of the Coronavirus Disease ("COVID-19") is such that it has spread and increased globally, as indicated by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention ("CDC"), the World Health Organization ("WHO"), and other public health organizations within the U.S. and regionally; and
5. In the U.S. the number of positive and presumptive positive cases have grown, with the rise in COVID-19 confirmed cases in Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Colorado; and
6. No confirmed COVID-19 cases have been verified on the Navajo Nation and area Public Health Services are closely monitoring the situation; and
7. The Navajo Nation, in collaboration with various entities such as the U.S. Public Health Services Area Offices (Albuquerque, Navajo, Phoenix), CDC, state departments of health, Navajo Nation 638 Tribal Health Organizations and various other multi-agency groups, have organized an incident command approach to mitigate COVID-19 transmission on the Navajo Nation; and
8. In partial response to addressing the spread of COVID-19 on the Navajo Nation, a Navajo Department of Health ("NDOH") Command Operations Center has been established with an infrastructure to maintain situational awareness, conduct daily communication briefings among NDOH and key collaborative partners and, disseminate information to the public; and

9. The Navajo Department of Emergency Management (NDEM) Emergency Operation Center (EOC) shall be activated to support the Navajo Department of Health Command Center.
10. Locally, it is acknowledged and understood that the threat of transmission of COVID-19 needs to be mitigated to reduce risk of exposure to the Navajo People and the resultant consequential public health impacts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management hereby declares a Public Health State of Emergency for the Navajo Nation due to the confirmation of the Coronavirus Disease ("COVID-19") in regional areas surrounding the Navajo Nation.
2. To address increased concerns of potential public health impacts due to risk and exposure to the COVID-19, especially to our older population, the Navajo Nation must encourage independent responsibility and action by the Navajo People in practicing recommended preemptive measures to minimize, prevent and reduce risk of exposure to and from the COVID-19.
3. The Navajo Nation population receives timely, consistent and correct information needed on the COVID-19 on preventive measures against contracting and spread of the virus, signs, symptoms and contacting local hospitals and clinics for reporting.
4. In declaring the Public Health State of Emergency, all Navajo Nation Branches, programs, departments will comply with and adhere to directives, instructions, and/or policies forthcoming from the Navajo Department of Health as related to addressing COVID-19.
5. The needs of the Navajo Nation are to be addressed in a manner so as to provide the necessary resources required to address said Declared Public Health State of Emergency. This includes, but not limited to, resources of personnel, medical supplies and equipment, monetary funding, and other resources as may be required to protect the health, safety and welfare of citizens of the Navajo Nation.


CERTIFICATION


I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management at a duly called meeting at Window Rock, Navajo Nation, Arizona, at which a quorum was present and that same passed by a vote of 4 approved, 0 opposed, and 0 abstained this 11th day of March 2020.


Herman Shorty, Chairperson
Commission on Emergency Management

Motion by: Dicky Bain
Second by: Ben Bennett

CONCURRENCE:


Jonathan Nez, President
THE NAVAJO NATION


Myron Lizer, Vice President
THE NAVAJO NATION